

**Department of Homeland Security  
Information Analysis and Infrastructure  
Protection  
Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report  
for 18 April 2003**

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)  
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**Daily Overview**

- The Los Angeles Times reports that according to industry documents filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, each of the more than 100 chemical plants throughout the United States could expose millions of people to dangerous concentrations of toxic gas in the event of a terrorist attack or major accident. (See item [5](#))
- The New York Times reports the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services met last week in Washington with pharmaceutical industry representatives to discuss the development of a vaccine for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, the respiratory illness that has sickened thousands of people and killed more than 154. (See item [15](#))
- The CERT/CC has issued "Advisory CA-2003-13: Multiple Vulnerabilities in Snort Preprocessors," and both issues are addressed in Snort version 2.0. (See item [23](#))
- The Mena Report notes that over 3,000 successful digital attacks took place last weekend, primarily against the U.S. and U.K. online high profile targets, with hackers protesting a further escalation in the war with Iraq. (See item [24](#))

**DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump***

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**Energy Sector**

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels:** Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *April 17, Platts Global Energy News* — **Sudden Iraqi oil output rise would weaken oil price: Iran.** Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said Thursday **that oil prices would be challenged and the market would face serious consequences if an oil production rise from Iraq was**

**sudden and not managed.** "Any sudden rise in production by Iraq can have an important negative influence on the market in the short and medium terms," Zanganeh told reporters on the sidelines of an energy conference and exhibition. "It can also create serious consequences and cause a price challenge if not managed properly," he added. Zanganeh said Iraq's production stood at nearly 3–mil b/d before the start of the U.S.–led war on Iraq, March 20, but that level could not be sustained because of a lack of spare parts and equipment. **"If restrictions on Iraq are lifted, their production could easily go up to 3.5–mil b/d,"** Zanganeh added. He said earlier that level could be reached within a year.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/home1.html>

2. *April 16, Reuters* — **TVA, MISO and PJM agree to integrate power markets. Three of the biggest power grid operators in the eastern–half of the United States agreed to work together to integrate their power markets, the companies said in a joint statement Wednesday.** The Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator Inc. (MISO), PJM Interconnection (PJM) and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) said this was the first step in a process that would, when complete, create a wholesale power market covering a significant portion of the nation east of the Rockies. **The announcement furthers the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) goal of creating a national standard market design (SMD) based, in part, on the PJM market model.**

Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw\\_article.cfm?id=3776871](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3776871)

3. *April 16, Reuters* — **Exelon shuts Quad Cities nuclear plant in Illinois. Exelon Corp. said it declared an "alert" and shut its Quad Cities 2 nuclear power plant in Illinois on Wednesday due to a malfunctioning valve inside the unit's reactor containment building.** "All plant personnel and safety equipment responded as expected. There was no release of radioactivity associated with the event," the company said in a statement. The Quad Cities station is in Cordova, Illinois, about 130 miles southwest of Chicago. **An alert is the second–lowest level of four emergency classifications set by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. It means there is no danger to the public and no special safety actions by the public are required.**

Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw\\_article.cfm?id=3776872](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3776872)

4. *April 16, Akron Beacon Journal, Ohio* — **Results on improvements at Ohio's Davis–Besse nuclear plant are mixed.** Employees at FirstEnergy's Davis–Besse nuclear plant are making improvements in the way they handle safety issues, company surveys show. **But a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) official said Tuesday that while surveys show the company is making good progress at improving the plant's "safety culture", the information shows inconsistencies that trouble him. The survey results were presented at a regular monthly meeting between FirstEnergy and the NRC held on the grounds of Camp Perry.** In addition, FirstEnergy said it's likely Davis–Besse will be ready for restart no sooner than mid June, based on work and testing that needs to be done. The NRC also has its own inspections that can start only after repair work is completed at the plant in Oak Harbor.

Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw\\_article.cfm?id=3777227](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3777227)

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## **Chemical Sector**

5. *April 17, Los Angeles Times* — **Chemical plants said to pose risk. More than 100 chemical plants throughout the United States — including 12 in the Los Angeles Basin — each could expose millions of people to dangerous concentrations of toxic gas in the event of a terrorist attack or major accident, according to industry documents filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.** In Southern California, eight plants in Los Angeles County, three in San Bernardino County and one in Riverside County are each capable of exposing a million or more people to the gases, and some people could receive doses high enough to cause death or serious injury, the documents show. About 30 other plants in the region handle smaller volumes of chemicals that could affect between 100,000 and 1 million people. **In the Los Angeles region, companies and municipal facilities that pose the greatest risk handle chlorine, which they use mostly to make cleaning solvents and disinfect drinking water. At high concentrations, chlorine is deadly when inhaled. High-ranking officials in the Bush administration have warned that U.S. chemical plants are highly vulnerable to terrorism.** The danger of an attack "is both real and credible," Assistant Atty. Gen. Paul Corts wrote last month to the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress. The GAO concluded in a March 14 report that "chemical facilities may be attractive targets for terrorists intent on causing economic harm and loss of life." **"To date, no one has comprehensively assessed the security of chemical facilities," the GAO report says. "Despite the industry's voluntary efforts, the extent of security preparedness at U.S. chemical facilities is unknown."** Despite those concerns, Congress and the Bush administration, after a year and a half of debate, have been unable to agree on legislation that would require security measures at chemical plants.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-chemplants17apr17.1.6036321.story?coll=la%2Dheadlines%2Dcalifornia>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Transportation Sector**

6. *April 17, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* — **Delta reports \$466 million quarterly loss. Delta Air Lines said it lost \$466 million in the first quarter, its largest loss since the months immediately after the 2001 terrorist attacks.** The airline also said its operations used more cash than it generated during the quarter because of high fuel prices and the slump in demand leading up to the war in Iraq. **Still, the Atlanta-based airline said it ended the quarter with \$1.9 billion in unrestricted cash and arranged \$900 million in additional**

**financing after the quarter ended.** Delta shares were up \$1, or about 9 percent, at \$11.49 in midday trading on the New York Stock Exchange. "Even as we face the greatest financial crisis in Delta's history, which is deepened by the impact of military action in Iraq, Delta continues to successfully reduce costs, preserve liquidity, and implement the strategic elements of our long-term plan for survival," said Leo F. Mullin, chairman and chief executive officer. "I remain confident that we are taking the right steps to stabilize and strengthen our company while meeting the needs of our customers."

Source: [http://www.accessatlanta.com/ajc/business/delta/0403/17delta\\_earn.html](http://www.accessatlanta.com/ajc/business/delta/0403/17delta_earn.html)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

7. *April 17, Oregonian* — **Port leaders, shippers trying to 'unlock' sailors. Vancouver, OR area leaders called for Congress on Wednesday to take pity on the thousands of foreign seamen forced to stay aboard their ships in U.S. ports because of increased security measures since September 11, 2001.** Meeting in response to a plea from the Fort Vancouver Seafarers Center, which works with foreign seamen, representatives of various shipping concerns, and government agencies suggested that Congress create areas for the seamen that are similar to the "international free trade zones" for cargo. The participants will put together a position paper, then circulate it among other ports, unions, shippers and export-import companies, all with the intent of lobbying Congress to unlock ships' crews. **Representatives of ports, shippers, labor, the Coast Guard, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, exporters, and staffers for two U.S. senators and a congressman said that isolating the men on their ships could become an international problem that hurts the local economy.**

Source: [http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro\\_north\\_news/1050580992177930.xml](http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro_north_news/1050580992177930.xml)

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## **Agriculture Sector**

8. *April 17, Reuters* — **Bird flu spreads in Europe, human health concerns.** A severe Dutch outbreak of bird flu is seen spreading across Europe, mildly infecting humans and prompting fears that a mutated version of the virus could spark a flu epidemic in people, authorities said on Thursday. **The Dutch Agriculture Ministry, grappling to contain a month-long outbreak that has spilled into Belgium and is nearing the German border, said there was a danger that bird and human flu could mix in pigs and produce a mutation that humans have no resistance against.** "It is possible. Up to now avian flu has never acquired the ability to transmit from one person to another, if it does it could cause a large number of infections," World Health Organisation spokesman Iain Simpson said.

Source: <http://reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=scienceNewsD=2585543>

9. *April 16, Dispatch* — **Bioterror law hits plant grower. Goldsmith Plants could be on the hook for \$7 million in damages due to regulations stemming from the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002.** In a worst case scenario, wholesalers who lost inventory

because of a deadly bacteria in Goldsmith–produced geraniums could recoup their losses in court. **Already 22 greenhouses around the country have asked Goldsmith Plants for nearly \$1.3 million in compensation after it was discovered in January that a strand of the Ralstonia bacteria has infected some Goldsmith geraniums.** If found liable, Goldsmith Plants, the sister company to Goldsmith Seeds, Inc., could go out of business.

Source: <http://gilroydispatch.com/news/newsview.asp?c=43827>

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## **Food Sector**

10. *April 16, Reuters* — **USDA found slightly less salmonella contaminated meat last year.**

**Federal inspectors last year found slightly less ground beef contaminated with the bacteria salmonella in 2002 than in 2001, continuing a five–year trend, an annual government report said on Wednesday.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said in 2002 its inspectors found salmonella in about 2.6 percent of ground beef products, down from 2.8 percent the previous year. USDA said year–to–year declines were also found in ground turkey, broilers, cattle and hogs. The only increase was in ground chicken. **Separately, the department said it planned to regularly publish test results for salmonella at U.S. meat plants. USDA said this would help alert companies more quickly of a potential food safety problem at their plant.**

Source: <http://reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=scienceNewsD=2580188>

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## **Water Sector**

11. *April 17, Water Tech Online* — **Drought resulting in tough, costly measures for many areas.**

**Water utilities in cities throughout the drought–stricken American west are implementing and enforcing tough and costly spring and summer water conservation measures according to a sampling of drought response plans conducted by the American Water Works Association (AWWA).** While historically water utilities have promoted water conservation in a variety of ways, the new policies and restrictions are attempting to persuade citizens to change their water use behavior, AWWA said in a news release. **According to AWWA's sampling, water utilities are enforcing strict water restrictions and charging steep water use surcharges as well as fines against those who blatantly waste water.**

Source: <http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4font>>

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## **Public Health Sector**

12. *April 17, Canadian Press* — **SARS fight at critical stage. The Severe Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak that has crippled Toronto, Canada's health–care system may be on the verge of breaking out in an uncontrolled fashion into the community at large, infectious disease experts warned Wednesday.** While public health officials leading the fight

against SARS warned only that the battle has reached a critical stage, the doctors who advise them were ready to spell out the threat in more graphic and frightening terms. **The disease has travelled so far from the original cluster of infection, one expert estimates the city is on the fifth generation of cases, that the risk people will go undiagnosed and spread SARS in the community is mounting daily.** In Toronto, officials have admitted that several people who were eventually diagnosed with SARS were turned away from hospitals when they sought help because they didn't fit the profile used to make the difficult distinction between an emerging case of SARS and a garden variety respiratory ailment.

Source: <http://www.canoe.ca/CalgaryNews/cs.cs-04-17-0007.html>

13. *April 17, Harvard Crimson* — **Study says antibiotics over-prescribed. Almost half of all infections caused by a bacteria responsible for pneumonia, meningitis, and ear infections will be virtually untreatable by next year, according to a study by researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health.** The study pointed to the over-prescription of antibiotics as a likely cause for the growing number of cases of bacterial infections that are untreatable by these drugs. **The study also revealed that while a new vaccine represents a temporary stop-gap measure, in the long-term, heavy use of antibiotics will continue to decrease their effectiveness.** Alethea McCormick, the study's principle author, said that there is a rising proportion of bacteria resistant to both penicillin and erythromycin, two of the most heavily prescribed antibiotics. **Researchers and clinicians have found that bacterial resistance to antibiotics has risen steeply in parts of the world where these drugs are commonly prescribed, she said, but there is little resistance to antibiotics that are rarely prescribed.**

Source: <http://www.thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=347656>

14. *April 17, Rice University* — **Rice uses buckyballs to reinvent antibiotic of last resort. Rice University chemists hope a new variant of vancomycin that contains buckyballs, tiny cage-shaped molecules of pure carbon, could become the world's first targeted antibiotic, creating a new line of defense against bioweapons like anthrax.** Vancomycin, which entered clinical service 40 years ago, is the antibiotic of last resort, given only when all others fail. Unfortunately, vancomycin-resistant strains of bacteria have appeared in recent years. In an effort to reinvigorate vancomycin, researchers have created vancomycin conjugates, pairs of vancomycin molecules joined by an intermediate molecule that acts as a bridge, some of which have proven more effective at killing resistant bacteria. **"Having the ability to target antibiotics to attack specific bacterial antigens opens the door for treatments that simply aren't available today,"** said Chemistry Professor Lon Wilson. **"For example, we believe it's feasible to create a C60-vancomycin conjugate that attaches to anthrax while it is still in the spore form."**

Source: [http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2003-04/ru-rub041603.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2003-04/ru-rub041603.php)

15. *April 16, New York Times* — **Persuading business to help look for a SARS vaccine. The government is trying to enlist drug makers and biotechnology companies in the search for drugs and vaccines to fight Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), the respiratory illness that has sickened thousands of people and killed 154.** But some analysts say the government will have some of the same problems it has been having trying to recruit companies to develop defenses against bioterrorism agents. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services met last week in Washington with pharmaceutical industry representatives to discuss the development of a vaccine for SARS. A few companies are responding in limited ways. **Still,**



the experience with defenses against biowarfare and bioterrorism suggests that recruiting companies, particularly large, established manufacturers, could be difficult until it becomes clearer how widespread and long lasting the SARS epidemic will become. Drug companies have not become involved in biodefense efforts because it is unclear how big the overall market would be for such drugs and vaccines, since there might never be an attack. The Bush administration is trying to solve that problem with its proposed Project Bioshield, which would set aside billions of dollars to stockpile drugs and vaccines.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/16/science/sciencespecial/16INDU.html>

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## **Government Sector**

16. *April 17, United Press International* — **U.S. off high threat status that cost \$5B.** The United States on Wednesday lowered its color-coded terrorist threat warning level to yellow — signifying an "elevated" risk of attack — as the fighting in Iraq winds down, and as officials say that the cost of heightened security associated with the war was more than \$5 billion. "We are still in the process of determining which of the portions of Operation Liberty Shield will be scaled back," Department of Homeland Security spokesman Brian Roehrkas told United Press International, "There are certain measures that will continue for the time being." **Roehrkas said that, as best officials can tell, the cost of security measures associated with the war is more than \$5 billion.** "That's about as accurate an estimate (of the costs) as we get right now with the information we have at the moment," said Roehrkas. **Much of the cost — millions and millions of dollars, mainly in overtime for law enforcement personnel and first responders — was borne by cash-strapped state and local governments.**

Source: <http://www.upi.com/view.cfm?StoryID=20030416-020640-4568r>

17. *April 17, Honolulu Advertiser* — **Student tracking system full of gaps.** Two months after a national tracking system for foreign students went online, there are unexplained gaps in the information base, continuing technical problems and changes in regulations that Hawaii colleges say have left students caught in the middle. **The problems are being echoed across the country as more than 7,500 schools and programs catering to international students phase in federally mandated SEVIS computer tracking, the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System for foreigners. Nationally, colleges and universities have seen an 8 percent decline in foreign scholars coming to the United States and indications that several years of steady growth in numbers may have leveled off, which education officials blame on tighter security measures.** And with a key August 1 SEVIS deadline looming, they fear a computer system fraught with problems could overload and crash at the height of fall enrollment, jeopardizing entry for 600,000 foreign students nationally who pumped \$1.9 billion into the U.S. economy last year, of which \$125 million went to Hawaii from its 5,400 foreign students.

Source: <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2003/Apr/17/ln/ln03a.html>

18. *April 17, Government Computer News* — **DHS seeks to secure data it gets from the private sector.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has proposed rules under which it would protect systems information it receives from the private sector. **The proposed rule-making notice, issued Tuesday, is aimed at implementing the Critical Infrastructure Information**

**Act of 2002, which appears in Subtitle B of Title II of the Homeland Security Act.** That law calls for DHS to shield from the public the information that the private sector submits. The proposal calls for the DHS to safeguard the information in secure systems or locations and to impose that requirement on any other agencies or contractors to which it discloses the information. **Under the proposal, private-sector organizations could specify information to be exempted from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. The department could deny organizations' designation of information as critical-infrastructure and return it.** The proposed rule calls for a program manager of critical infrastructure information. Among other duties, the official would report any losses of critical infrastructure data to the department's inspector general, its Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate and the organization that submitted the information.

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/21773-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/21773-1.html)

19. *April 16, U.S. Department of Homeland Security* — **Department of Homeland Security FY '03 supplemental funding fact sheet.** On Wednesday, the President signed the FY '03 Supplemental Bill authorizing an additional \$6.71 billion for the Department of Homeland Security to support Departmental functions and domestic counterterrorism operations that have been activated as a part of Operation Liberty Shield at the start of the war in Iraq. **The Department was allocated \$4.31 billion to offset the costs of Operation Liberty Shield and an additional \$2.4 billion was made available to the airline industry to help with costs associated with enhancing the capabilities of the airline industry to combat terrorism.** As we make progress in establishing the appropriate mechanisms to fund homeland security needs around the country, we welcome Congress' cooperation in ensuring the Department has the necessary flexibility to direct funds so that we can further this important mission.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=43/font>

20. *April 16, Government Executive* — **Bush signs \$79 billion war spending package.** Twenty-three days after he requested extra funds, President Bush Wednesday signed into law a \$79 billion supplemental bill to cover the costs of war in Iraq. **The fiscal 2003 supplemental spending package includes \$62.6 billion for operations in Iraq; \$8.2 billion for international assistance programs and an Iraq relief and reconstruction fund; \$4.3 billion for homeland security initiatives; \$3 billion for aviation assistance; and \$136 million for the legislative branch.** House and Senate appropriations lawmakers sent Bush their final version of the bill on Saturday after three weeks of tense negotiations. Although House and Senate negotiators battled passionately, and at times testily, over the amendments added in the Senate, they had few significant disagreements over the body of the supplemental package and its funding for defense, homeland security and foreign aid. **The conference report provides \$62.4 billion for national defense, while rejecting many of the administration's large, open-ended funding requests in favor smaller appropriations with more strings attached.**

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0403/041603njns1.htm>

21. *April 16, The White House* — **Personnel Announcements. The President intends to appoint Daniel W. Sutherland of Virginia, to be Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security.** Currently, Sutherland serves as Chief of Staff and Senior Counsel to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education. He previously served at the White House, with the Domestic Policy Council, as well as the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice. Sutherland earned his bachelor's degree from the



University of Louisville and earned his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/04/20030416-13.html>

22. *April 16, Federal Computer Week* — **Digital homeland library readied.** The Naval Postgraduate School plans to launch a digital library by June, offering up research on homeland security issues. **The library will be open to students at the school, employees of the departments of Justice and Homeland Security, and likely other federal agencies as well, said Lillian Gassie, head of technical services and systems at the Naval Postgraduate School Dudley Knox Library.** The Justice Department had asked the school to develop a homeland security curriculum and an associated library. The library will focus on homeland security policy and planning issues to match what the curriculum offers, Gassie said. **The data in the library is gleaned from locally held documents, public repositories, and commercial and agency data sources, and eventually will come from the Internet and other additional sources.** "We're looking to collaborate with people to add more data," Gassie said.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0414/web-digital-04-16-03.asp>

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## Emergency Services Sector

Nothing to report.

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## Information and Telecommunications Sector

23. *April 17, CERT/CC* — **CERT Advisory CA-2003-13: Multiple Vulnerabilities in Snort Preprocessors.** The Snort intrusion detection system ships with a variety of preprocessor modules that allow the user to selectively include additional functionality. There are vulnerabilities in two of these modules. **CORE Security Technologies has discovered a remotely exploitable heap overflow in the Snort "stream4" preprocessor module.** To exploit this vulnerability, an attacker must disrupt the state tracking mechanism of the preprocessor module by sending a series of packets with crafted sequence numbers. This causes the module to bypass a check for buffer overflow attempts and allows the attacker to insert arbitrary code into the heap. **This vulnerability affects Snort versions 1.8.x, 1.9.x, and 2.0 prior to RC1. Internet Security Systems has discovered a remotely exploitable buffer overflow in the Snort RPC preprocessor module.** When the RPC decoder normalizes fragmented RPC records, it incorrectly checks the lengths of what is being normalized against the current packet size, leading to an overflow condition. The RPC preprocessor is enabled by default. **This vulnerability affects Snort versions 1.8.x through 1.9.1 and version 2.0 Beta. Both issues are addressed in Snort version 2.0, which is available at the Snort website:** <http://www.snort.org/>.

Source: <http://www.cert.org/advisories/CA-2003-13.html>

24. *April 16, Mena Report* — **High profile digital targets hit by hackers protesting Iraq war.** Over 3,000 successful digital attacks took place last weekend primarily against U.S. and U.K. online targets with hackers protesting a further escalation in the war with Iraq. The

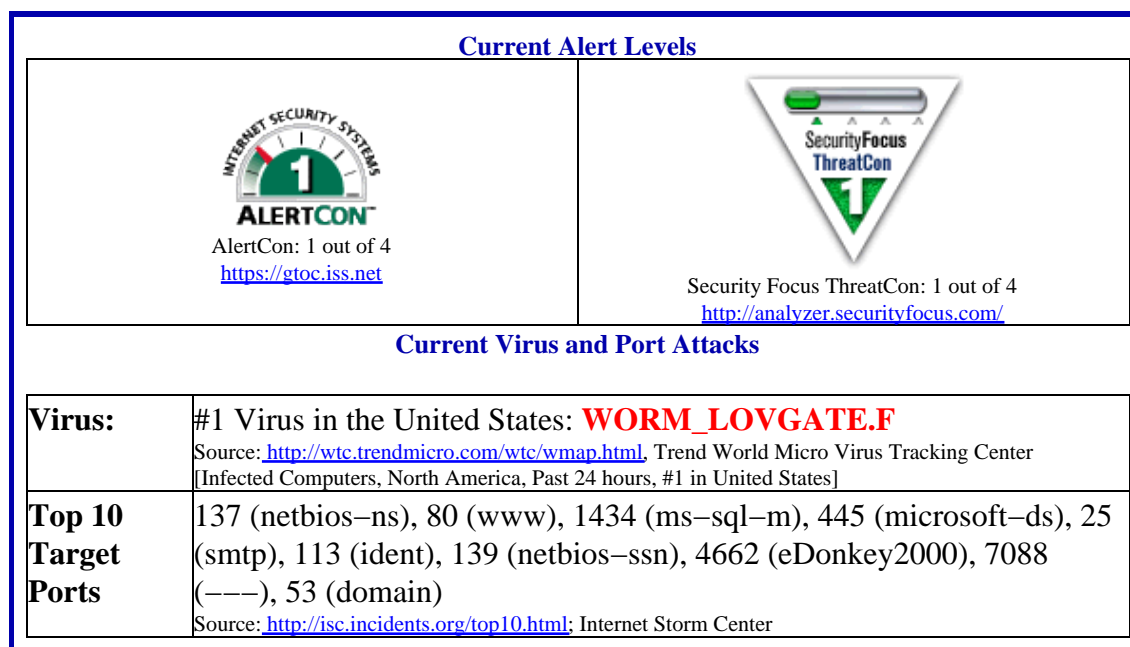
main concern being expressed by hackers is over the conflict spreading to Syria or Iran. **High profile targets hit include Coca-Cola's web site in Singapore**, which was attacked on Saturday, April 12. It was unreachable throughout Sunday and is now back up again. There are other examples of NASDAQ and NYSE listed companies, such as one with over 1,650 employees and a market capitalization in excess of \$275 million that were hit over the weekend. Also, **Fuji Film online sites in the U.S. and Switzerland were targeted by Hackweiser—a pro-war U.S. patriotic group** — and in the U.K., the London Fire Brigade and Scottish Police online sites were successfully targeted by Unix Security Guards (an anti-U.S./U.K./Israel group).

Source: <http://www.menareport.com/story/TheNews.php3?action=storyd=247137/a>>

25. *April 15, Government Computer News* — **FIPS-140 gains international acceptance. The Federal Information Processing Standard for cryptographic modules, FIPS-140, has become the de facto international standard for cryptography, with 300 products validated by independent laboratories. It is moving toward becoming an official international standard as well.** In October, the International Standards Organization began considering a proposal to make FIPS-140-2 an international standard, and Britain in November accepted it as the standard for protecting personal information submitted to the government. **The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and its Canadian equivalent, the Communications Security Establishment, jointly run the validation program, which certifies product compliance with FIPS-140-2.** "I have heard that many states are recognizing FIPS-140," said Ray Snouffer, manager of NIST's Security Management and Testing Group. The standard is also required by many private-sector organizations, including banks in Europe and U.S. companies such as Visa International Service Association and Boeing Co. **But the United Kingdom is the first country other than the United States to adopt the standard.**

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/21732-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/21732-1.html)

### Internet Alert Dashboard



## **General Sector**

**26. *April 17, New York Times* — U.S. considers indicting terrorist arrested in Iraq on Achille Lauro murder.** The Bush administration has explored ways of bringing charges against Abu Abbas, the Palestinian terrorist captured in Iraq, withholding judgment about whether to turn him over to Italy and rejecting Palestinian demands for his release. **Officials in Italy, which convicted Abbas in absentia in 1986 for his role in the 1985 hijacking of an Italian cruise ship, the Achille Lauro, in which an American passenger was killed, said they wanted the United States to turn him over to them to serve a life sentence. American officials said that while they had begun speaking with Italian officials about Abbas, they had made no decisions on how to proceed.** The administration said it was not bound by an earlier amnesty agreement between Israel and the Palestinians that had allowed Abbas to elude arrest before moving to Baghdad from Gaza several years ago.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/17/international/worldspecial/17TERR.html>

**27. *April 17, Reuters* — France threatens to deport radical Muslim clerics.** France threatened on Tuesday to deport any Muslim leaders preaching extremist views, after fundamentalist Muslims won a strong voice in a new council to represent Islam in France. **Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said the council, which will represent the country's five million Muslims, would not be allowed to become a breeding ground for radical Islam. "Islamic law will not apply anywhere because it is not the law of the French republic. Any Imams whose views run contrary to the values of the republic will be deported," Sarkozy told Europe 1 radio. "(The council gives us) more latitude to fight against the few Imams who breach the law in advocating violence or anti-Semitism. Those Imams will be expelled," he added.** Earlier this month, Britain revoked the citizenship of a radical Muslim cleric, Abu Hamza al-Masri, who praised the September 11 attacks, after banning him from preaching at his London mosque because of his extreme statements. **The French Council of the Muslim Faith (CFCM), elected at the weekend and due to start work in September, is aimed at fostering a better understanding of Islam in secular and mainly Catholic France.**

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L15173407.htm>

### **DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information**

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipcc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

**DHS/IAIP Warnings** – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

[DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive](#) – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

### **DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

Content and Suggestions: [nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov](mailto:nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov) or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at 202–324–1129

Distribution Information Send mail to [nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov](mailto:nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov) for more information.

### **Contact DHS/IAIP**

To report any incidents or to request information from DHS/IAIP, contact the DHS/IAIP Watch at [nipc.watch@fbi.gov](mailto:nipc.watch@fbi.gov) or call 202–323–3204.

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